



**Funding Request Form FY2025**

*Department should complete one form for each individual request*

**Department:**

Career Center

**Program, Service or Operation Requested:**

Chronus annual license renewal

**General Description:**

Since 2016, the Texas A&M Career Center has partnered with Chronus to offer a customizable mentoring platform accessible to all university students. Presently, there are 33 active mentor programs serving diverse groups, including First Generation Engineering Students, Transfer Student Peer Mentoring, and Pride Mentors. Our Career Center has a dedicated Associate Director managing this resource, collaborating with students, faculty, and staff interested in Chronus to create tailored mentoring experiences. After implementation, the Associate Director remains available as a resource and for oversight.

**Request Type:**

Full       Increase       One-Time       Partial/Matching

**Type of Funds Requested:**

UAF       Other

**General Questions**

***How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?***

There is great value and impact in mentor/mentee relationships and each Chronus program has been customized to fit the needs of the audience. The ability for a student to be paired with a mentee (peer, former student, or other) is very powerful. Several studies found that institutions have improved student retention and engagement through structured mentoring programs.

***What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?***

The Chronus mentoring platform aligns with the strategic objectives of the Division of Student Affairs, which include:

- \* Enhancing student success, encompassing retention, persistence, and timely graduation.
- \* Cultivating proactive leaders who engage with diverse ideas, perspectives, and cultures.

Participation in mentor/mentee programs has been proven to bolster the holistic

development of students, fostering a conducive environment for forging meaningful, enduring relationships that extend well beyond graduation.

***Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.***

When the Career Center's moved to the Division of Student Affairs in June 2022, the \$150,000 annual license fee for Chronus, previously covered by the Provost's Office, is now entirely funded by the Career Center's operational budget. This request seeks partial funding for the remaining license payment due under the current contract.

Prior to renewal, an objective assessment will be conducted to determine if Chronus remains the most effective method for providing mentoring opportunities to students.

***What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?***

The current Chronus contract expires September 2025. The Career Center backfilled an Associate Director position in June 2023 to manage the Chronus platform and its mentor programs. This position had been vacant for over six months, resulting in a lack of active oversight for existing programs. An evaluation of mentor programs is currently underway to identify whether some should be sunset, ensuring a consistent administrative framework, and collecting standardized engagement data over the next 12-18 months.

***If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?***

The Associate Director position overseeing the Chronus platform was vacant for over six months prior to being filled in June 2023. The focus for the upcoming year will be on evaluating and revitalizing programs. We will rely on Chronus Engagement Reports to assess the impact of these efforts and determine how best to move forward with mentoring programs.

***Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered?***

***Please explain.***

The Career Center funded the most recent annual license renewal by leveraging contributions from Partner companies. The last installment of the current contract will likewise be covered through Partner donations, partially offset by SAFAB funding, if approved.

**Total Estimated Cost**

<b>Funding Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Chronus annual license expense	150,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	85,000
<b>TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED</b>	65,000